SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, I shall have to reply to all the three questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No; only 542 ___ *(Interruptions)* ____

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, Question No. 542 is different from the Question No. 543.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes; yes; Question No. 542.

Water Treaty Between China and India

*542. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to'the need for **a** Water Treaty between China and India on the lines of Indus Water Treaty before the Task Force starts plans for linking the Indian rivers; and

(b) if so, whether Government are seriously thinking of any such Treaty ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Water Treaty Between China and India

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources, then known as Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among rivers for transferring flood waters from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Himalayan Component of National Perspective Plan involves some link projects which require cooperation of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Presently, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for any such water Treaty with China in this regard.

श्री विजय जे.दर्डा : सभापति जी, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि हमारी तीन मेजर नदियां, ब्रह्मापुत्र, सतलुज और इंडस, तिब्बत से ओरिजिनेट होती हैं, चाइनीज़ गवर्नमेंट किसी भी स्ट्रेटेजिक कंसिडरेशन के तहत या और किसी कारणवश अगर हमारी नदियों का बहाव बदल देती है तो ऐसी परिस्थिति में हमने इस इवेंच्युएलिटी को फेस करने के लिए कोई प्रोग्राम बनाया हैं या बिना चाइनीज़ ट्रीटी के हम लोग इसको पूरी तरह से पूरा कर सकते हैं ?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, so far as having a Treaty with China for exploitation of water of the Brahamaputra river is concerned, I would like to say that there is no need to have any Treaty with China, because the catchment area of river Brahamaputra is quite large,and if any kind of dam is constructed by China,

that won't affect the availability of water that is there inside our country, because we have enough precipitation in between the borders of China and our country.

श्री विजय जे.दर्डा : क्योंकि इनका ओरिजिन तिब्बत से होता हैं और तिब्बत चाइना के क्षेत्र में हैं, ऐसी परिस्थिति में जो कुछ भी आप स्ट्रेटेजिक प्रोग्राम बना रहे हों, वह चेंज हो सकता हैं क्या ?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, our country is situated on the down-stream ©f the Brahamaputra river, and China is on the upstream. That won't affect, in any way, our country's interest. If the Chinese Government constructs any dam on the upstream, that won't affect anything in our country.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the linkage of the Brahamaputra river with the Ganga river would cause more harm to the Brahamaputra Valley during the rainy season. I am saying it because by blocking the flowing down of water, it may create severe harm than at present. That is my question. And, secondly, Sir, the Minister has said that without having any water treaty, the Government can do everything in the downstream. But, I think, it is not like this. It is necessary to have a Treaty in this regard.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the hon. Member expressed an apprehension that the transfer of water from the Brahamaputra river to the Ganga river would affect the State of Assam more severely. But, I think, the whole thing is being studied by the Task Force; and certainly the Government of Assam will be taken into confidence before putting up this kind of mega project into operation in our county.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Ambika Soni. She is not present.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very important question.

श्री सभापति : आप क्वेश्चन पूछ रहे हैं तो इम्पोटंट ही होगा ।

Inter-linking of Rivers by NWDA

*543. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :††

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(c) whether the National Water Development agency has completed the pre-feasibility reports of the links;

(d) if so, whether the pre-feasibility reports of all the 30 possible links, 16 under the peninsular component and 14 under the Himalayan component, had been completed;

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.